

# Description of Leader Kids: Study of children aged 5-6 years in Kindergarten

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## **Abstract:**

*This study analysed the description of Leader kids. The formulation of the problem in this study is how to develop the soul of a leader in early childhood. This study aims to describe the soul of leader kids from an early age so that children can become leaders for themselves and others in the future. The method used is a qualitative type with a phenomenological approach. With observation data collection techniques, interviews and documentation. While the validity of the data using triangulation. The research subjects were three children with 7-grade teacher informants with the following criteria: 1) Aged six years and over, 2) Male sex, 3) Have complete parents. In the research results of informants, 57 % say that the spirit of leadership appears before entering school so that it does not entirely affect school activities. In comparison, informants 43 % stated that the soul of the leader kids appeared when they entered school.*

**Keywords:** leadership; early childhood; independent soul.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education has always served as the foundation for achieving success, beginning from a child's birth until the end of their life. Primary education is initially acquired by children from their family environment or parents. However, in contemporary times, many parents neglect their children's education. Even though parental attention and support are crucial in facilitating children's development and providing primary education early, many parents disregard this fundamental responsibility. Numerous childcare institutions have emerged that replace the parental role with other individuals, reducing parental involvement in their children's growth and development (Utami, 2021).

Early childhood education is an extensive and intriguing topic of discussion as it marks the commencement of a child's growth and development, which significantly impacts their subsequent life (Agustriana, 2018). During this period, a child undergoes a rapid and fundamental developmental process, particularly in social interaction (Munisa, 2020). Optimal physical, cognitive, motoric, emotional, language, and social development are the various developmental tasks that young children should achieve for positive social and emotional growth, enabling them to learn better and excel in school and life. Fulfilling this development-

al needs necessitate education and learning that stimulates children to grow and develop (Matondang, 2017).

Development refers to changes in maturity and physical readiness that enable individuals to perform activities and gain experience, allowing them to perform the same action in the future or transfer their expertise to try other activities (N. Amini & Naimah, 2020). Character building in early childhood education is an essential aspect of sustainable human development, mandated by the preamble of the 1945 Constitution, which recognises Pancasila as a fundamental foundation and way of life to be internalised in all fields (Talango, 2020). National character development remains a crucial strategic area in constructing the foundation for societal, national, and state life, consistent with the national character development policy for implementing the 2005-2025 national long-term development plan.. Preparing children to undergo the stages of development within the family and learning language, customs, and cultural norms are crucial tasks that contribute to maintaining family life and societal continuity (Pramana, 2020).

In our study, we have empirically examined children's aesthetic and imaginative ideas and the transitions between nonsense and taste in their imaginative activities (Caiman & Lundegård, 2018). The National Association for The Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has identified the age range of 0-8 years as early childhood, which encompasses children participating in educational programs such as daycare, family childcare homes, preschool education (private and public), kindergarten, and elementary school. During this critical developmental period, children can develop and cultivate leadership values, such as courage and kindness, which are essential for healthy leadership and positive social outcomes (M. Amini, 2014).

Leadership is a person's ability to influence others without coercion and can move, motivate, and set an example so that there are changes to achieve common goals. Leadership itself is the influence exerted by one person on another, but speaking of leadership, there are two parts to leadership. The first is leadership or a leader with a good or positive influence, and the second is leadership or a leader. which has a bad influence or a negative influence (Waruwu, 2021). The goal is that when children already have entrepreneurial leadership skills, they will have courage, independence and skills to minimise failures in themselves so that they are not easily discouraged and continue to struggle and be optimistic. While the creativity of entrepreneurial leadership is that children can think flexibly in leading their businesses in the form of increased creativity, innovation, intuition, motivation, and the courage to take risks (Fitroh & Mayangsari, 2017).

Many theories discuss the ideal leadership style or model in modern times, which are increasingly complex and dynamic. The figure of a leader is a figure that can be considered a significant role in life to uphold justice and prosperity and produce real work. Leaders with such character will undoubtedly make leaders charismatic and have integrity in managing what they lead. Leaders with character will undoubtedly have an intellect that is different from humans in general and has the influence of the knowledge he has. Expertise in managing will be tested by how much the leader understands human nature and the life (Triyono, 2019). The role of the leader also determines the education carried out in schools because schools function to pass on the nation's noble values to the younger generation as well as a place for the learning process to take place. The occurrence of a teaching and learning process and passing on noble values that are effective requires good cooperation between teachers and children, parents and the surrounding community (Umi & Nopriansyah, 2019).

Not only adults, including children, but individuals also have the right to ensure survival. Leadership is talking about more than just leading a group. But more precisely, leadership

must start with oneself (Supriadi et al., 2022). Giving character education to a child is not easy; it takes patience and perseverance to do it; this takes a long time, habituation must be done continuously and repeatedly, and education for children continuously and repeatedly has been revealed in God's Word (Nuraeni, 2020). The behaviour pattern of a leader in directing others to achieve goals, this behaviour shows a Transactional, Transformational and Visionary style (Mauluddin, 2018).

The importance of cultivating a leadership spirit from an early age so that children can become good individuals from an early age. Leadership skills certainly need to be nurtured from an early age; it can be started by introducing them to leaders or leaders who have leader souls (Suaidi & Jakaria, 2021). Nothing but the goal of building a spirit of leadership in children, namely so that children have leadership values from an early age. The leadership values that children hope for are that children have character, perspective, courage, kindness and a high moral spirit, and of course, children can become leaders in the future. Based on the observations of researchers encountered in this field; namely that some children experience development in the spirit of leadership, while those who experience slow development make it difficult to adapt to the school environment in early childhood; it is a development that must be maximised because early childhood is the golden age. This study uses Sugiyono's theory, namely purposive and snowball because the data collection technique is the most critical step of research to obtain data. The researchers did not get data that met the established data standards without knowing the collection techniques.

This research will answer how to instil leadership in early childhood by implementing Leader Kids. With the more complex problems in the world of early childhood in today's modern era, a suitable leadership model is needed to optimise work in the future. This article's benefits and objective research are to improve the spirit of Leader Kids from an early age so that children can become leaders for themselves and others in the future. As for the renewal of this research, how is the description of the leader kids instilled from an early age by involving children in daily activities at school and home.

## **METHOD**

Using a qualitative descriptive research type, with a qualitative type with a phenomenological approach (Anggito & Setiawan, 2018). Qualitative research is data collection in a natural setting with the intention of interpreting phenomena that occur where the researcher is the key instrument, sampling data sources is done purposively and snowball. The research subjects were 3 children with 7 grade teacher informants with the following criteria: 1) Aged 6 years and over 2) Male sex 3) Have complete parents. Data collection techniques used are documentation, interviews and observation. The interviews used by the researchers were unstructured interviews which were flexible types of interviews and researchers could follow the interests and thoughts of the participants, interviews were conducted with the parents of children, and observations were observations made by researchers by looking at the subjects under study (Yuhana & Aminy, 2019). The presence of this researcher was carried out when carrying out an internship at the Islamic KB-TK Al Azhar 34 Makassar for 3 months. Efforts to see the validity of a data from research results must be done so that the validity of the data used is triangulation, namely by triangulation of sources. Data analysis techniques used are data collection, data reduction, data presentation and conclusion.

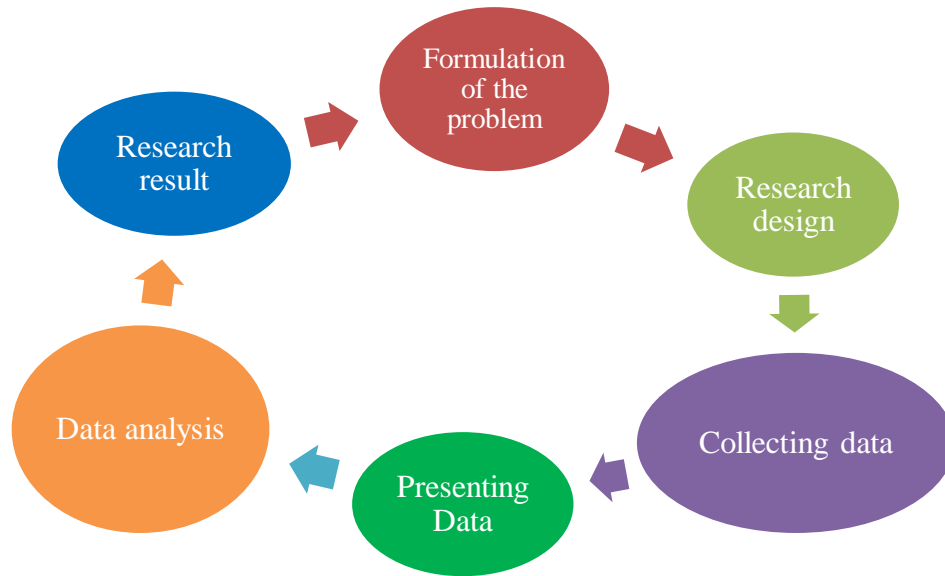


Figure 1. Research stages

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Leader Kids starts from an early age so that children can become future leaders for themselves and others. Informants 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 have male students aged 6 years with the following interview results:

Table 1. Results of the first subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answers 1
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is leadership or the soul of leadership in someone
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	The spirit of leadership appears when children are trained in their daily activities at school by rotating schedules as leaders in activities
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	children can be disciplined, responsible and have a noble character to parents and teachers
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school but had not shown up too much, only being a leader for his younger sibling
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Familiarize Ananda with giving responsibility for each activity, for example with fun camp activities, children can become leaders in each group
2	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	way of speaking, independence, honesty, and initiative
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Parenting and parental guidance
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school

	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Confident, firm, disciplined and brave
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Face it with a cool head
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Train children's attitudes to always be disciplined, set a good example for children, involve children in activities
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	You can try by asking the child to lead the prayer
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Mutual help fellow friends, honest, disciplined
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Start with self-knowledge and practice good habits which then shape your character as a leader

The researcher concluded that informants (1) paid attention to children's development in terms of becoming leaders starting to appear before entering school so that children are used to being able to become direct leaders when they enter school. Every individual experience development. Development occurs from an early age to adulthood, development cannot be measured, but can be felt, development is progressive, systematic, and continuous, things that develop in each individual are the same, it's just that there are differences in the speed of development, and there are developments that precede previous developments, even though developments between one aspect and another occur simultaneously (Khaironi, 2018). Strategies or ways that can be done to develop creativity in children are by allowing children to explore, not limiting children, providing facilities in this case games that can develop children's artistic abilities (Patiung et al., 2019).

Table 2. Results of the second subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant's Answer 2
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is the soul of leadership that exists in a person
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	The soul of leadership appears when children are given responsibility in an activity
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Dare to be responsible for the environment
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	By allowing children to express their confidence in public and support every positive action they want to take
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Must be brave to speak in public

2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Early discipline
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Leadership spirit, Discipline, Independent, Honest
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Focus on a goal and find the best way
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Trained for minimal responsibility towards a child himself
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Have a sense of responsibility towards yourself
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Invite friends to do good things
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Children can become better individuals and can think broadly about the problems they face

The results of observations made by researchers by informants (2) saw that children's daily activities at school were more active in participating in activities to train leader kids activities compared to at home because children have many friends to interact with so that children become accustomed to being leaders for their future. The development of human life is a continuous process, starting from the time of conception (fertilization) to death. Thus, development continues throughout human life. This is then understood as a life-span perspective on human development (Talango, 2020). at an early age it is very important to provide the right stimulation or stimulation to children, so as to optimize aspects of child development.(Susanto, 2020). Build a foundation for the development of children's potential to become human beings of faith and piety to God Almighty, have noble character, be healthy, knowledgeable, capable, critical, creative, innovative, independent, confident, and become democratic and responsible citizens (Pareira & Atal, 2019).

Table 3. Results of the third subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answer 3
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is leadership or the soul of leadership in someone
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	The spirit of leadership appears when children are trained in their daily activities at school by rotating schedules as leaders in activities
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	children can be disciplined, responsible and have a noble character to parents and teachers

	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school but had not shown up too much, only being a leader for his younger sibling
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Familiarize Ananda with giving responsibility for each activity, for example with fun camp activities, children can become leaders in each group
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	way of speaking, independence, honesty, and initiative
2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Parenting and parental guidance
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Confident, firm, disciplined and brave
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Face it with a cool head
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Train children's attitudes to always be disciplined, set a good example for children, involve children in activities
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	You can try by asking the child to lead the prayer
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Mutual help fellow friends, honest, disciplined
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Start with self-knowledge and practice good habits which then shape your character as a leader

Table 4. Results of the fourth subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answer 4
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is a leadership trait that can make a person more mature
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	Since he was given responsibility in an activity or facing a problem
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Can solve a problem given by the teacher or that he faces
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	By giving responsibility or getting used to the child to solve a problem

	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Appear confident, assertive and can be an example for other friends
2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Early discipline
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Honest, disciplined and responsible
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Ananda is able to be firm in dealing with conflict and can mediate for his friends
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Familiarize children to live independently and responsibly
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Have a sense of responsibility towards yourself
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Invite friends to do good things
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Children can become better individuals and can think broadly about the problems they face

Table 5. Results of the fifth subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answer 5
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership isa leader who guides others
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	Since the emergence of an independent spirit in the child
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	children can be disciplined, responsible and have a noble character toparents and teachers
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school but had not shown up too much, only being a leader for his younger sibling
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Familiarize Ananda with giving responsibility for each activity, for example with fun camp activities, children can become leaders in each group
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	way of speaking, independence, honesty, and initiative
2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Parenting and parental guidance



	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Confident, firm, disciplined and brave
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Face it with a cool head
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Train children's attitudes to always be disciplined, set a good example for children, involve children in activities
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	You can try by asking the child to lead the prayer
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Mutual help fellow friends, honest, disciplined
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Start with self-knowledge and practice good habits which then shape your character as a leader

Table 6. Results of the sixth subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answer 6
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is an attitude to influence, motivate, and also delegate others to do certain things in order to achieve goals
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	The soul of leadership appears when children are given responsibility in an activity
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Dare to be responsible for the environment
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	By allowing children to express their confidence in public and support every positive action they want to take
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Must be brave to speak in public
2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Early discipline
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Leadership spirit, Discipline, Independent, Honest

	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Focus on a goal and find the best way
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Trained for minimal responsibility towards a child himself
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Have a sense of responsibility towards yourself
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Invite friends to do good things
	What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Children can become better individuals and can think broadly about the problems they face

Table 7. Results of the seventh subject interview

Subject	Researcher Questions	Informant Answer 7
1	What do you know about leadership?	Leadership is a leadership trait that can make a person more mature
	Since when does the spirit of leadership appear in children?	Since he was given responsibility in an activity or facing a problem
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Can solve a problem given by the teacher or that he faces
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, Ananda had the soul of a leader before entering school
	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	By giving responsibility or getting used to the child to solve a problem
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Appear confident, assertive and can be an example for other friends
2	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Early discipline
	Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	No, students do not have the soul of a leader before entering school
	What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Honest, disciplined and responsible
	How did Ananda deal with conflict as a leader?	Ananda is able to be firm in dealing with conflict and can mediate for his friends
	Can the existence of a leader spirit in children help with activities while at school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends and can be an example for others
3	What things need to be applied in order to grow the soul of a leader in children?	Familiarize children to live independently and responsibly
	What things prove to children that they have a leadership spirit?	Have a sense of responsibility towards yourself

Did he have a soul leader before entering school?	Yes, children can be leaders for other friends
What are the signs that raise the soul of a leader in children?	Invite friends to do good things
What characteristics arise in the soul of leaderkids?	Children can become better individuals and can think broadly about the problems they face

The study's findings revealed differences in leadership qualities among the three subjects. Subject 1 has had a leadership spirit since before entering school; he can be a good example for his friends, be a leader when in an activity, and solve a small problem when given an assignment by his class teacher. Subject 2 has no soul leadership before entering school, so he can develop a sense of leadership through school activities; for example, in this case, it is a fun camp activity where he can become a leader for his group mates because his class companion teacher always gives him responsibility. Subject 3 has had a leader kids spirit since before entering school; it's just that when entering school, it's still difficult to adapt because it has a shy nature, Independence for children is essential because by having an independent character, children will not easily depend on others (Damayanti, 2019). During this golden age, all aspects of human development began to take shape, starting from the development of morals, religious values, cognitive, language, social-emotional and psychomotor, including beginning to form the development of children's independence (Pareira & Atal, 2019). The results obtained from several data sources (informants) are the results regarding the progress of early childhood development in independence and a spirit of leadership that is instilled from an early age in daily activities both at home and at school, which has been carried out to train to become leaders from an early age.

## CONCLUSION

Three informants do not pay attention to the soul of the leader kids, and four informants pay attention to the mental development of the leader kids, it has a significant influence on children. Informants 1,3,5, and 7 stated that the soul of the leader kids appeared before entering school. This can be seen from the results of this study that before entering school, children can become leaders for their younger siblings; for example, they can set a good example for their younger siblings and are more independent from their peers, informants 2,4 and 6 stated that the soul of the leader kids appeared when they entered school, this can be seen from the results of this research that when a child is given the responsibility of being a leader for his friends, for example, being an imam when praying and leading a line when marching.

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